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News Release

ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED TO 12 1/2 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RE-ENTERING THE U.S. 6 TIMES AFTER BEING DEPORTED

Admitted gang member also had convictions for selling drugs and 1st-degree sexual abuse

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — An illegal alien was sentenced in federal court yesterday to 12½ years in federal prison for re-entering the United States after having been deported six times. This sentence was announced by Todd P. Graves, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Roberto Madrigal-Lopez, 33, a citizen of Mexico, a convicted sexual predator, and an admitted Border Brother gang member, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr on Monday to 150 months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 3, 2005, Madrigal-Lopez pleaded guilty to illegally re-entering the United States following deportation and after he was convicted of aggravated felonies. Madrigal-Lopez has been deported from the United States on six prior occasions, including: October 1993, March 1995, April 1997, June 1997, November 2000, and the last time on March 25, 2005. It is a felony to re-enter the United States after having been deported punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Madrigal-Lopez was convicted in California for selling heroin, possessing heroin for sale, and auto theft. He was also convicted in Arkansas of first-degree sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 14, and he has prior convictions for illegal re-entry.

Madrigal-Lopez was last arrested Aug. 3 following a high-speed chase the day before by Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers and Cedar County Sheriff's deputies in Cedar County, Mo., for leaving the scene of an accident, resisting arrest and multiple traffic violations. Following the car chase where speeds exceeded 120 miles per hour, the vehicle was disabled after crashing through the fence of a local residence. Madrigal-Lopez and his passenger were arrested the near the crash site after a short foot pursuit.

Madrigal-Lopez was indicted before the U.S. Grand Jury in Springfield, Mo., Aug. 17.

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This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe, Western District of Missouri.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.